

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1629

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 5022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, KS

SUBJ: ROK AMBASSADORS RESHUFFLED

1. ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED REASSIGNMENT OF NINE MISSION CHIEFS, EFFECTIVE JUNE 12, AS FOLLOWS:

2. VICE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION KIM DONG-HWIE AS AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN. BORN IN 1932, KIM HAS BEEN IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE SINCE 1954, WITH SERVICE IN BONN AND WASHINGTON. IN SEOUL SINCE 1971, HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN BUREAU UNTIL 1973, THEN ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNTIL 1976, WHEN HE MOVED TO THE MINISTRY

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OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND SPEAKS GERMAN WELL. AS AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR HE WAS A CAUTIOUS BUT RELIABLE COLLOCUTOR FOR THE EMBASSY AND SHOWED CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL IMAGINATION IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS. DURING HIS TENURE AS VICE MINISTER OF MCI HE HAD, THROUGH HIS OWN CHOICE, VERY LIMITED CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY.

3. AMBASSADOR TO IRAN HYON SI-HAK IS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO. A CAREER NAVAL OFFICER, HYON RETIRED WITH THE RANK OF REAR ADMIRAL, IN 1966, TO BECOME MINISTER AT THE EMBASSY IN LONDON. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO, FROM 1970 TO 1974, WHEN HE WENT TO TEHRAN. FILES INDICATE HE HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE BOTH AS A NAVAL OFFICER AND AS A DIPLOMAT, ALTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY HAS A FORCEFUL PERSONALITY THAT AT TIMES CREATED ENEMIES FOR HIM DURING HIS MILITARY CAREER. HE IS A GOOD GOLFER, AND HAS DISPLAYED A STRONG LINGUISTIC TALENT, SPEAKING BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

4. AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO CHANG SANG-MUN (CHANG SANG MOON) HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION, BUT WILL BE STUDYING AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY. BORN IN 1922, CHANG WORKED FOR 12 YEARS FOR US GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN KOREA, ENTERING THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1958. AFTER ASSIGNMENTS IN SEOUL AND WASHINGTON, HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU IN 1963-5, WHERE HE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN NEGOTIATING THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT. HE THEN SERVED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN HONG KONG, AS POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, AS DIRECTOR OF THE PROTOCOL BUREAU, AND THEN AS ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. HE WENT TO STOCKHOLM AS AMBASSADOR IN 1973 AND TO

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MEXICO IN 1975. HIS RELATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND CORDIAL.

5. NEW AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA IS NO SOK-CHAN (LO SUK-CHAN), RECENTLY IN A HOLDING PATTERN AS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE. BORN IN 1924, HE WAS A JOURNALIST UNTIL 1964 WHEN HE BECAME SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (THE POLITICAL PARTY OF PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI), AND THEN VICE MINISTER OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. HE WAS ASSIGNED AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAN IN 1967, TO BRAZIL IN 1970, TO AUSTRALIA IN 1974, AND HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY ON THE SHELF, AS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, SINCE 1977. A LARGE, BLUFF INDIVIDUAL, HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND AN AVID GOLFER.

6. AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA NAM CHOL HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO SEOUL, TO AN AS-YET UNDESIGNATED POST.

7. AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL CHI SONG-KU (CHI SUNG-KOO) HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND, SUCCEEDING YUN KYONG-TO WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO SEOUL, POSITION UNDESIGNATED. BORN IN 1931, CHI ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1959, SERVING IN MOFA, FRANCE, AND JAPAN,

IN ADDITION TO A PERIOD OF STUDY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
IN WASHINGTON. HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN AFFAIRS
BUREAU IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BEFORE BEING SENT TO
SENEGAL IN 1974.

8. MUN HUI-CHOL (MOON HEE-CHUL), CONSUL GENERAL IN SAO
PAOLO, HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE KOREAN TRADE
MISSION IN KUWAIT, REPLACING NO CHAE-WON (LO JAE-WON)
WHO IS BECOMING DIRECTOR OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN
DIVISION. MUN WAS BORN IN 1925, LEFT HIS KOREAN UNIVERSITY
IN MID-COURSE IN 1949, WAS AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN
1955, AND HAS HELD A VARIETY OF FOREIGN SERVICE ASSIGN-
MENTS SINCE THEN IN JAPAN, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
COMMERCE DIVISION, IVORY COAST, AND LIBERIA, BEFORE HIS
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APPOINTMENT AS CONSUL GENERAL IN SAO PAOLO IN 1975.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 5022

9. KIM HAE-SON (KIM HAE-SUN), COUNSELOR AT THE ROK UN OBSERVER MISSION, WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO GABON, SUCCEEDING KIM CHANG-HUN WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AS RESEARCHER AT MOFA'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY. KIM HAE-SON WAS BORN IN ABOUT 1934, EDUCATED IN SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (LIKE NEARLY ALL HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY COLLEAGUES) AND AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE COLLEGE. HE SERVED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE LATE 1960'S, IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA BUREAU, AND LATER AS DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION. HE WAS NAMED CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN UPPER VOLTA IN 1970. FILES DO NOT INDICATE WHEN HE MOVED TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

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10. DIRECTOR NO YONG-CHAN OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN BUREAU WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL, REPLACING CHI SONG-KU. BORN ABOUT 1932, NO ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN ABOUT 1958. HIS FIRST OVERSEAS SERVICE WAS IN PARIS, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR IN SAIGON. HE THEN RETURNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHERE HE WAS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER. HE WENT TO RABAT IN 1965, SERVED AS MOFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL 1968-9, CHARGE IN KINSHASA 1969, COUNSELLOR THEN IN PARIS AND MEXICO, SUCCESSIFELY, BEFORE APPOINTMENT AS AFRICA BUREAU DIRECTOR IN 1976. NO IS SOFT SPOKEN AND PERSONABLE, ALWAYS CONVEYING A RELAXED AND FRIENDLY MANNER. AS PROTOCOL CHIEF, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY SOMETIMES FOUND HIM NOT PARTICULARLY ENERGETIC OR HELPFUL. HE APPEARS TO BE A MAN WHO FLOWS WITH THE TIDE.

11. SO KYONG-SOK, NEW AMBASSADOR TO QATAR, WAS BORN IN 1926, STUDIED AT KOREA UNIVERSITY IN SEOUL AND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY IN THE US WHERE HE GRADUATED IN 1957. HIS FOREIGN SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS SINCE 1961 INCLUDE JAPAN, IRAN, ETHIOPIA, AND A STINT AS FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN. HE BECAME MINISTER AT THE EMBASSY IN JAMAICA IN 1974 AND IN LONDON IN 1977.
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Message Attributes

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